

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

Currently the cable industry has a monopoly on the consumer TV market and has consumers in a strangle hold due to the restrictions on local channel access. The local channel access is a big issue with me. I live in an apartment complex where you can not get a clear signal any where near a Grade B due to the buildings surrounding my unit. I have been denied repeatedly on waiver request, because the program that the local stations use to check signal strength goes by ZIP code and does not allow for terrain or obstructions. I was told by a local affiliate that they would rather I not watch national programing at all than watch it from another city.

Everyday hard working people like myself are made to suffer, because of our choice of TV service provider. People like me want this merger, people like me need this merger to give us the same rights as viewers that cable subscribers now enjoy. Why should we be discriminated against, because we choose to get or signal from the sky rather than a line?

I employ you to please lend your support to this merger. We as consumers demand equal fair treatment and equal access to programing.

I thank you for your time and efforts.